REMARKS

Claims 1 and 19-21 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. New claims 23-24 have been added. Claims 1-11, 13, 15-17, 19-21, and 23-24 are pending.

Claims 1-2, 10-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over I'Anson et al., further in vie of Sweitzer et al., and further in view of Shanklin et al.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claim 1, the office action indicated that Sweitzer et al. purportedly teaches the use of an invalid state, and Shanklin et al. purportedly teaches the use of regular expressions. Although Sweitzer teaches a state machine that moves from a starting state to an error state, Sweitzer does not teach multiple invalid transitions from a valid state to an invalid state. In Sweitzer's state machine example, if a message received is without a proper opcode or containing an invalid checksum, the state machine enters into an error state and a NAK packet is transmitted (Sweitzer 10: 7-12). Therefore, neither Sweitzer, nor Shanklin, nor I'Anson, either singly or in combination teaches "expressing a plurality of invalid transitions from the first state to the invalid state as a plurality of regular expressions," or applying "the plurality of regular expressions to determine whether the packet associated with one of a plurality of invalid transitions." Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-11, 13, 15-17, and 23-24 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claims 19 and 20 recite systems for carrying out the method of claim 1. Therefore, it is believed that claims 19 and 20 are also allowable.
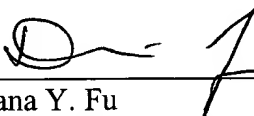
Claim 21 recites a computer program product for carrying out the method of claim 1. Therefore, it is believed that claim 21 is also allowable.

New claims 23 and 24 have been added. Support for new claim 23 may be found, as an example and without limitation, in FIGS. 4-5. Support for new claim 24 may be found, as an example and without limitation, at 37:3-22.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _8/25/06_

Diana Y. Fu
Registration No. 52,924
V   408-973-2593
F   408-973-2595

VAN PELT, YI & JAMES LLP
10050 N. Foothill Blvd., Suite 200
Cupertino, CA 95014